

EDWARD J. MARKEY

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September 1, 2005

The Hon. Alberto Gonzales  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

The Hon. Samuel Bodman  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

The Hon. Timothy Muris  
Chairman  
Federal Trade Commission  
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Gentlemen:

It is apparent that the problem of price-gouging at gasoline stations has become rampant in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Gasoline prices are being raised without regard to the cost. This is probably occurring all along the production and supply chain, but it is certainly evident to any person driving around with a gas tank approaching empty and an eye on the price at the pump.

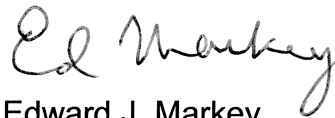
Following the terrorist attack on US soil in September 2001, some unscrupulous operators took similar advantage by pushing prices up 30 or 40 cents a gallon on the basis of rumors and speculation, not actual shortages or cost increases. This triggered both federal and state investigations that ultimately led to large fines being paid by violators.

It is time for a similar investigation and vigorous prosecution of offenders by state and federal officials. Some prices at the pump have risen more than 50 cents overnight – and there are news reports of extraordinary and obvious cases of price-gouging where operators have jacked up the pump price to almost \$6 a gallon! The Administration must act urgently and forcefully to stop this, not only to protect American families, but also out of respect for those station owners who are acting fairly amid the runaway price-gouging all around them.

The country has now experienced one of the worst natural disasters in its history. Every branch of government will need to mobilize to restore the health and welfare of the nation. Unfortunately, this must include the immediate creation of a Gasoline Anti-Profiteering Task Force at the federal level, first to send a signal of seriousness that profiteering will not be tolerated, and then to send investigators to get the facts and bring necessary prosecutions against those whose greed has led them to engage in exploiting this national disaster.

I look forward to your reply to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ed Markey".

Edward J. Markey